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## **FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2015 AWARD WINNERS**

**Diverse Group of 265 International Films Shine at Academy-Award  
Qualifying Festival**

(Providence, R.I. • Aug. 9, 2015) – **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** proudly announced the Award Winners from its 19<sup>th</sup> Festival, on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at the annual Awards Ceremony held at **The Metcalf Auditorium**, RISD Museum in downtown Providence, RI. This year's Festival ran from August 4-9<sup>th</sup>, and ended with another record-breaking year. Venues were located across the state of Rhode Island – from Newport to Woonsocket -- with the capital city serving as the hub for the film-centric activities.

"Thanks to **Steven Feinberg**, the Rhode Island Film & Television Office, **Kristen Adamo** at the Providence/Warwick CVB, and **Lynne McCormack** with the City of Providence, we knocked the ball out of the park, raising the bar for the future and next year's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the Festival," said **George T. Marshall**, RIIFF's Executive Director. "We hosted over 250 international filmmakers who experienced true Rhode Island hospitality."

"This year's Festival had a spectacular lineup of provocative and engaging new films and was a banner year for the Flickers' screenings, forums, workshops, classes and parties," added **Shawn Quirk**, RIIFF's Program Director.

The Festival screened **265** feature length, documentary and short films, from **54** countries, and **34** states across the U.S. Films were selected from a record entry base of **5,713** submissions with **73** World, North American, and U.S. premieres. The Opening Night Gala has become a crowd-pleasing event called "Flickers' Short Film Retrospective: Journeys in Filmmaking." This year, more than 1,900 people attended the event at the historic Providence Performing Arts Center.

The **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, the Rhode Island International Film Festival has screened 3,896 independent films and videos out of 42,935 entries, presented 905 World/North American premieres, featured over 700 entries that were locally produced, and hosted 3,358 filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over 360,000 film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival, its film presentations and programming.

There are literally thousands of film festivals worldwide but only 19 of them have a rather unique accolade; they are qualifying Festivals for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in

both the short film and documentary short division. The **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) is one of these 19 Festivals and the only Festival in New England with this distinction. RIIFF has seen 38 films nominated that premiered at the Festival and to date, there have been eight Academy wins.

RIIFF has seen 38 films that premiered at the Festival receive Oscar® nominations with eight (8) winning the Award; most of the films have been part of the Opening Night program. In 2014, five films that premiered at RIIFF went on to receive Academy Award nominations: "The Phone Call," from Director Mat Kirkby, and James Lucas, writer; "Aya," from Directors Oded Binnun and Mihal Brezis; "The Bigger Picture," from Director Daisy Jacobs and Christopher Hees, producer; "The Dam Keeper," from Directors Robert Kondo and Dice Tsutsumi; "Joanna," from Director Aneta Kopacz. "The Phone Call" was awarded the Oscar®.

The winner of the **RIIFF Best Short** and **Best Documentary Grand Prize** holds a special honor: they become the Festival's nominee for Academy Award consideration. The 2015 Grand Prize winners are "**Picnic**," directed by Jure Pavlović from Croatia that takes place in Sarajevo during rush hour. The story concerns Emir who is on his way to meet his father for a weekend picnic at Igman, a semi-open penitentiary, but is late due to heavy traffic. "**The House is Innocent**," directed by Nicholas Coles, USA, is a documentary that concerns Tom and Barbara's whose new home has a notorious past and it's going to take more than a fresh coat of paint to whitewash its macabre history.

The 2015 Festival was dedicated to the memory of actor/singer/activist, **Theodore (Theo) Bikel**, who was the recipient of the Festival's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award. His diverse and countless cinematic roles have left an iconic footprint in American film history. From his debut performance in "The African Queen" (1951) to his Oscar Nominating performance as the Southern Sheriff in "The Defiant Ones" (1958), Theo Bikel's great talent has brought to life timeless characters and music. With the creation of the role Baron Von Trapp in the original Broadway Production of "The Sound of Music" (1959), he captured the imaginations of millions. His ties to Rhode Island are longstanding as he helped to create the Newport Folk Festival, one the longest running and most prestigious music festivals in the world.

### **THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL AWARDS:**

#### **GEORGE M. COHAN AMBASSADOR AWARD**

Presented to **Lynne McCormack** of Providence's Art, Culture + Tourism. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose work, passion, and drive epitomizes a level of excellence in the arts. Named after famed Providence entertainer George M. Cohan, who was born on the 4th of July, this award honors truly unique Americans who have made a timeless contribution to the arts and have inspired future generations of Rhode Islanders.

#### **ROBERT BURGESS ALDRICH AWARD**

Presented to **Chris Sparling** during the Annual ScriptBiz Screenwriter's Workshop. This award is given semi-annually to an outstanding Rhode Island artist whose vision and passion reflects that of Robert Burgess Aldrich, of Cranston, R.I., a successful director of many feature films, who utilized a variety of genres to tell his stories. His films included "The Longest Yard," "The Dirty Dozen," "Flight of the Phoenix," "Hush," and countless others. Robert Aldrich began his career in Cranston, RI, and ultimately rose in the Hollywood ranks to be the President of the Directors Guild of America, serving from 1975-1979. This Award is presented to a director who has begun his career in Rhode Island and is following in the footsteps of Robert Aldrich, preparing to make a lasting mark on the industry.

Presented jointly in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office.

## **RIFF GRAND PRIZE SCREENPLAY AWARD**

Flickers annually adjudicates a Screenplay Competition concurrently with the RI Film Festival. Last year, 396 submissions were received from throughout the United States and across the globe. The Grand Prize winner was **George Billard** (New York) for his screenplay "Dispossessed."

## **PRODUCER'S CIRCLE AWARDS**

Presented to members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of Flickers. This year's winners include:

- **Barbara Barnes**, RI Historical Society
- **Pamela Kimel**, RISD Museum; Louise Moulton, Providence Public Library
- **Ellen Loconto**, Just Ellen's Catering and Event Planning
- **Louise Moulton**, Providence Public Library

## **THE COMPLETE LIST OF 2015 FESTIVAL AWARDS FOLLOWS:**

### **BEST SHORT FILM**

**GRAND Prize:** (RIFF's Official Academy Nomination)

"Picnic" | Directed by: Jure Pavlović, Croatia, 2015

**First Prize:** "Monstre" (Monster) | Directed by: Delphine Girard, Belgium, 2014

### **BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT**

**GRAND Prize:** (RIFF's Official Academy Nomination)

"The House is Innocent" | Directed by: Nicholas Coles, USA, 2015

**First Prize:** "We Live This" | Directed by: James Burns, USA, 2015

**Tied With:** "The Beauty of Barbara Allen" | Directed by: Jackson Anthony, USA, 2015

### **BEST FEATURE**

**GRAND Prize:** "Now We're Alive" | Directed by: Thibault Arbre, Belgium/France, 2014

**First Prize:** "Fourth Man Out" | Directed by: Andrew Nackman, USA, 2015

### **BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

**GRAND Prize:** "Madina's Dream" | Directed by: Andrew Berends, USA, 2014

**First Prize:** "She's The Best Thing In It" | Directed by: Ron Nyswaner, USA, 2014

**Tied With:** "CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap" | Directed by: Robin Hauser Reynolds, United States, 2015

### **BEST COMEDY SHORT**

**GRAND Prize:** "Rest Stop" | Directed by: Kate Herron, United Kingdom, 2014

**First Prize:** "Timmy II" | Directed by: Imran J. Khan, USA, 2014

**Tied With:** "Dynamic Double Standard" | Directed by: Luke Patton, USA, 2015

### **BEST ANIMATION**

**GRAND Prize:** "Mi ne mozhem zhit bez kosmosa (We Can't Live Without Cosmos)" | Directed by: Konstantin Bronzit, Russian Federation, 2014

**First Prize:** "Chez Moi" | Directed by: Phuong Mai Nguyen, France, 2014

**Tied With:** "Golden Shot" | Directed by: Gokalp Gonen, Turkey, 2015

### **BEST CHILDREN'S ANIMATION**

**GRAND Prize:** "Eloise, Little Dreamer" | Directed by: Myriam Obin, Canada, 2015

**First Prize:** "Soar" | Directed by: Alyce Tzue, United States, 2014

### **BEST EXPERIMENTAL**

**GRAND Prize:** "Teeth" | Directed by: Tom Brown, Daniel Gray, United Kingdom, Hungary, 2015

**First Prize:** "Tupilaq" | Directed by: Jakob Maqe, Denmark, 2013

### **BEST DIRECTOR**

**GRAND Prize:** "More Than God" | Directed by: Kev Cahill, Ireland, 2015

**First Prize:** "All the Pain in the World" | Directed by: Tommaso Pitta, United Kingdom, 2014

### **DR. J. GERALD LAMOUREUX AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

*Presented to a filmmaker and artist who represents the spirit of cultural exchange between the United States and Canada.*

**"Dogs Don't Breed Cats" | Directed by: Cristina Martina, Canada, 2015**

### **SOLDIERS AND SACRIFICE AWARD**

*Celebrating Stories That Commemorate America's Heroes.*

**GRAND Prize:** "My Father's Vietnam" | Directed by: Soren Sorensen, USA, 2015

**First Prize:** "The Haircut" | Directed by: Alexis Ostrander Korycinski, USA, 2014

**Tied with:** "Riding My Way Back" | Directed by: Robin Fryday, USA, 2015

### **DIRECTORIAL DISCOVERY AWARD**

**GRAND Prize:** "Vanishing Sail" | Directed by: Alexis Andrews, Antigua, Barbuda, Grenada, St. Vincent and Grenadines, 2015

### **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**

*Winner of the Panavision Award and recipient of \$10,000 in production equipment)*

**GRAND Prize:** "Behind the Wall" | Directed by: Bat-Sheva Guez, Cinematography by: Giacomo Belletti, USA, 2015

### **RIFF NEW ENGLAND DIRECTOR'S AWARD**

**GRAND Prize:** "Seven Lovers" | Directed by: Keith Boynton, USA, 2015

### **RIFF DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARD**

**GRAND Prize:** "D.Asian" | Directed by: Sarah Smith, United States, 2015

**First Prize:** "Madam Black" | Directed by: Ivan Barge, New Zealand, 2015

### **HEARTS, MINDS, SOULS AWARD**

*Celebrating Films that Reflect the Jewish Experience.*

**GRAND Prize:** "Look At Us Now, Mother!" | Directed by: Gayle Kirschenbaum | United States, 2015

**First Prize:** "Daily Bread" | Directed by: Betsy Tsai, United States, 2015

**Tied with:** "The Train" | Directed by: Asher Grodman, United States, 2015

### **BEST EDITING**

**GRAND Prize:** "Breathe" | Directed by: Youssef Ouarrak, Edited by Dorota Nowocien, Poland, 2015

**First Prize:** "Kali" (Horse) | Directed by: Alban Ukaj, Kosovo, 2014

### **BEST SCREENPLAY**

**GRAND Prize:** "Outliving Emily" | Written and Directed by: Eric Weber, United States, 2015 (adaptation)

**First Prize:** "Stunned" | Directed by: Gérard Pautonnier, France, 2015

### **FLICKERS' AMBASSADOR AWARD**

*Presented to a film which inspires and empowers communication and cultural understanding*

**GRAND Prize:** "Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi" | Directed by: Neal Broffman, United States, 2015

### FLICKERS' INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

*Given annually to films or filmmakers who inspire social change and community outreach and strive to better the world in which we live.*

**GRAND Prize:** "A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velasquez Story" | Directed by: Sara Bordo, Mexico, Spain, United States, 2014

**First Prize:** "Angel of Nanjing" | Directed by: Jordan Horowitz and Frank L. Ferendo, United States, China, 2014

### PROVIDENCE FILM FESTIVAL AWARD

*Presented annually to a New England director whose work brings cinematic excellence to an international audience.*

**GRAND Prize:** "Hope City" | Directed by: David Angell, United States, 2014

**First Prize:** "Happygram" | Directed by: Julie Marron, United States, 2015

### ALTERNATIVE SPIRIT AWARD (LGBTQ) SHORT

**GRAND Prize:** "Gloria" | Directed by: Luis Hernández de la Peña, Mexico, 2015

**First Prize:** "Alzheimer's: A Love Story" | Directed by: Gabe Schimmel, Monica Petruzelli, Riani Singgih, United States, 2015

**Tied with:** "Talking to My Mother" | Directed by: Leon Le, United States, 2015

### ALTERNATIVE SPIRIT AWARD (FEATURE)

**GRAND Prize:** "Counting for Thunder" | Directed by: Phillip Cooper, United States, 2015

**First Prize:** "Driving Not Knowing" | Directed by: Michael Busza, United States, 2015

**Tied with:** "Paternity Leave" | Directed by: Matt Riddlehoover, United States, 2015

### KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARD

**GRAND Prize:** "The Epic of Hershey" | Directed by: Douglas McGinness, United States, 2015

**First Prize:** "Bienvenidos" | Directed by: Javier Fesser, Spain, 2014

**Tied With:** "The Dance of the Infants" | Directed by: Jokin Pascual and Javier Dampierre, Spain, 2015

### GREEN PLANET AWARD

*Celebrating the vision of man's shared humanity and achieving sustainability on our planet.*

**GRAND Prize:** "Children of the Arctic" | Directed by: Nick Brandestini, Switzerland, 2014

**FIRST Prize:** "Living with Coyote" | Directed by: Priya Shelly, United States, 2015

### VORTEX SCI-FI & FANTASY AWARD

**GRAND Prize:** "Subterranea" | Directed by: Mathew Miller, United States, 2015

**First Prize:** "Dive" | Directed by: Matthew Saville, Australia, 2014

**Tied with:** "Zelos" | Directed by: Thoranna Sigurdardottir, United States, 2015

### FILMMAKER OF THE FUTURE AWARD

*Presented to a filmmaker whose vision excites audiences and judges alike about the potential to produce compelling and successful films in the future.*

**GRAND Prize:** "No Strings" | Directed by: Eoin Maher, United Kingdom, 2014

### BEST STUDENT FILM AWARD

**GRAND Prize:** "Foreign Sounds" | Directed by: Eric Shahinian, United States, 2015

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### FLICKERS' YOUTH FILM JURY AWARDS:

*Awards were presented by Paige Frankovich, RIFF Youth Jury Program Manager, and the 2015 Youth Jury members.*

### BEST FEATURE

"A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velasquez Story" | Directed by: Sara Bordo, Mexico, Spain, United States, 2014

### BEST DOCUMENTARY

"The House is Innocent" | Directed by: Nicholas Coles, United States, 2015

### BEST LGBTQ

"Alzheimer's: A Love Story" | Directed by: Gabe Schimmel, Monica Petruzelli, Riani Singgih, United States, 2015

### BEST SHORT

"He and She" | Directed by: Marco Gadge, Germany, 2015

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival will take place **August 9-14, 2016**. For more information, please visit [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org) or call 401.861.4445.

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**Sponsors for the 2015 Festival include:** Lexus Short Films, ABC6, the Rhode Island Film & Television Office, Linchpin Design, Eurochannel, Edge Media, CW28, The Rhode Island Foundation: Equity Action, RISD Museum, Unifrance, Panavision, Pfizer, Dominion Diagnostics, The Rhode Island Council on the Arts (RISCA); Sony; IMDB.com, Rule Boston Camera, Délégation du Québec à Boston, Tourism Québec, PMA Industries, Cox Media, Decadent Catering, Newport Storm, Quality Rental, Just Ellen's Catering and Event Planning, Consulat de France à Boston, Amtrak, Enterprise, The Vets, The Providence Tourism Council, the University of Rhode Island (URI), The Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI; Roger Williams University, Hotel Providence, The Dean Hotel, The Providence Biltmore, ZipCar, Uber, The Pell Center at Salve Regina University's Story in the Public Square, Johnson and Wales University, Providence College, Roger Williams University, newenglandfilm.com, The City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture + Tourism, and The Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

### ABOUT FLICKERS:

The mission of the 34 year-old **Flickers Arts Collaborative** is to serve as a creative partner in the arts by uniting various media and arts disciplines that nurture the artistic process and support a vital part of our community. This includes multi-disciplinary art presentations; artistic and cultural activities; performance festivals; video and television productions and exhibition; audio recordings and broadcasts; educational outreach programs; and the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF).

**THE FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. RIIFF is widely recognized as a credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award and the Short Documentary Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. There are **19 film festivals worldwide** that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England.

The next Festival will take place **August 9-14, 2016**. For more information about the festival, please visit [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org) or call 401.861.4445.

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